



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Sub. H.B. 191 of the 129th G.A.](#)

Date: January 31, 2012

Status: In House Education

Sponsor: Reps. Hayes and Patmon

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

Contents: Changes the minimum school year from days to hours and prohibits public schools from being open for instruction prior to Labor Day

State Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on the state.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill changes the minimum school year from days to hours and eliminates excused calamity days for school districts, STEM schools, and chartered nonpublic schools. Some schools may incur an increase in operating costs as a result of making up instructional time lost due to public calamities.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

School districts and STEM schools are currently required to provide 182 days of instruction during each school year, including designated time for parent-teacher conferences and teacher professional development. Each day must be at least five hours in length for grades 1 through 6 and five and one-half hours in length for grades 7 through 12. Districts are permitted to close schools for up to five days per year, delay the start of a school day for up to two hours, and close schools up to two hours early for public calamities such as hazardous weather, without making up the lost instructional time.

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the bill changes this requirement to one based on hours instead of days. The bill requires at least 910 hours of instructional time for grades 1 through 6 and 1,001 hours of instructional time for grades 7 through 12. This equals the number of hours specified under the current 182-day schedule.¹ In addition, the bill eliminates excused time for public calamities, adding up to 25 hours for grades 1 through 6 and 27.5 hours for grades 7 through 12, not including the two hours per day that schools may delay the start of the day or end the day early under current law. Many schools are likely providing more than the minimum number of hours under the current requirement. These schools will only need to make up instructional time lost due to public calamities if the lost time causes their total instructional hours to decrease below the bill's minimum. For example, if a school currently offers one-half hour per day above the current minimum, the school's total instructional hours would be 91 hours (0.5 hours x 182 days) above the bill's minimum. Under the bill, these schools may be closed due to public calamity for up to 91 hours without making up the lost instructional time. Schools providing close to the minimum number of days and hours per day under current law, however, may incur additional operating costs to make up instructional time that is lost due to public calamities. The bill permits schools to use online instruction or paper "blizzard bags" for up to 24 hours per year to make up instructional time, which may help reduce the costs of making up the lost time.

In addition to changing the school year from days to hours, the bill prohibits public schools from being open prior to Labor Day. This provision may reduce schools' flexibility in establishing their schedules. However, schools may obtain a waiver from the Ohio Department of Education to open prior to Labor Day, which will likely eliminate any reduced calendar flexibility.

¹ The current requirement totals 910 hours (182 days x 5 hours/day) for grades 1 through 6 and 1,001 hours (182 days x 5.5 hours/day) for grades 7 through 12.